Editorial Notes
1) Unless otherwise stated all work was directed by the individual authors.
2) Pending the disaggregation of collections following local government reorganisation, all archives and finds are currently held by Leicester City Museums, unless otherwise stated, under the accession number given in parentheses at the end of each report.
3) SMR references relate to the Sites and Monuments Record held by Leicester City Museums (city sites) or Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service (county and Rutland sites).

SURVEY

Donington Le Heath (SK 422 123) GSB Prospection
In November 1996 geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB Prospection as part of an evaluation by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), in advance of housing development. No significant archaeological anomalies were detected.

Measham (SK 320 120) Lynden Cooper
A fieldwalking survey of three arable fields on the borders of Measham, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe parishes, revealed scatters of prehistoric flint implements and waste flakes; 27% of the material was of a small blade technology and may therefore be of late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date. The work was undertaken by ULAS in advance of a proposed industrial unit development on the south side of the A42 Burton Road and was funded by Leicestershire County Council. Further geophysical survey by GSB Prospection located some anomalies of possibly archaeological origin. (A95.1996).

Oadby (SK 633 018) GSB Prospection
Geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB Prospection in advance of a playing field development by Leicester Grammar School. No major anomalies of archaeological origin were detected.
Normanton le Heath (SK 439 313) Lorraine Bayley

In November 1996 a fieldwalking survey was undertaken by ULAS for RJB Mining in the area of the proposed Thorntree opencast coal site to the east of Normanton le Heath. The work on one field (no.44), revealed small quantities of finds of Mesolithic to post-medieval date. Of particular significance was a small quantity of Romano-British pottery representing a continuation of the previously recognised site to the north (TLAHS, 66, p.182). (A136.1996).

EXCAVATIONS

Birstall (SK 605 101) Susan Ripper

During May and June 1996 survey and excavation was undertaken at Watermead Country Park Gravel Quarry by ULAS. The work followed chance discoveries of human remains in spoil heaps resulting from gravel extraction by Ennemix Construction Materials Ltd under licence from ARC. A survey of the exposed gravel face confirmed that the remains had come from an expansive silt peat deposit representing an old course of the River Soar. Towards the southern end of the quarry, two parallel rows of upright posts were observed, probably the remains of a simple bridge structure, running east to west. The two rows were set 1.5m apart, and each pair was 1.5m from the next. While only five posts remained in situ, a further two were found in spoil and observation by the machine operator indicated that the alignment had continued across the width of the quarry. The piles were all oak, of round wood and split timbers, between 0.1m-0.15m in diameter, and up to 1.74m in length, and showed evidence of metal axe marks.

On the banks of the channel at the western extent of the proposed bridge, excavation revealed a series of features interpreted as a 'burnt mound'. The features comprised an oval shaped timber and wattle lined pit or trough, two probable hearths (one containing a lining of burnt stones), a ditch running into the channel (re-cut on at least four occasions), and a crescent-shaped spread of fire-cracked stones and charcoal. The oval pit or trough, measuring 1.0m by 0.8m across and 0.25m deep, had been cut into the alluvial clay. The base of it was lined with eight alder planks, laid in parallel, and each 0.16m wide. The sides of the pit were supported by woven wattling, comprising 16-20 upright withy rods set 0.16m apart, and bound by pairs of horizontal withies to form a basket-like lining. The fill of the pit comprised a sequence of charcoal layers separated by lenses of sand, overlain by a layer of burnt flint pebbles and a final fill of silty peat. The top of the pit was then covered by a spread of charcoal and shattered burnt flint pebbles. Burnt mound structures are of Bronze Age date and are thought to have functioned as communal cooking sites or sweat lodges (Hodder and Barfield 1990).

The human remains were examined by Simon Chapman of ULAS and Sebastian Payne of English Heritage, and comprised two young males, one of which possessed unhealed cut marks on the atlas vertebra, inflicted at the time of death or shortly after, and possibly associated with decapitation. A radiocarbon date of 990-830 Cal. BC (68% confidence; OxA-6831) was obtained from the vertebra. One of the skulls
possibly contained preserved brain tissue or a fungal endocast thereof. The animal bone from the excavations included those of the ancient cattle species Bos Primogenius. (A57.1996).

Bibliography


Enderby (SP 550 999) James Meek

Between May and July 1996 excavations took place at Leicester Lane on the site of a late Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure (enclosure II) first identified by aerial reconnaissance in 1989 (SMR no.59NW.DW). The site lies 5km south west of Leicester, and 350m south west of the larger D-shaped Iron Age enclosure (enclosure I) excavated by LAU in 1983-4 (TLAHS, 66, pp.1-82) (illus. 1). Further to the evaluative excavations undertaken on the site in 1990 and 1995 in advance of development by Centre 21 Ltd (TLAHS, 65, pp.1-12), the full excavation of the enclosure was undertaken by ULAS and directed by James Meek.

The sub-rectangular enclosure measured 40m by 50m, an area of 0.19 hectares, and the surrounding ditch varied in width from 3m to 5.5m (illus. 2). The ditch was interrupted by a 3m wide entrance on the northern side, flanked by large post holes indicating a gate structure. Within the enclosure the ground plans of four roundhouses were revealed (RH1-4). RH4 was located centrally and was stratigraphically earlier than RH1 and 3, which lay immediately north and south respectively. RH2 could not be related stratigraphically to the other house structures, but might conceivably be contemporary with RH4, to give a complement of two buildings at any one time. The entrances to all four structures face north east. RH1 and RH4 appear to be the most substantial structures, comprising paired concentric gullies surrounding a large central post hole. The proposed internal diameter of 10m for these structures is consistent with those from other sites thought to be used for the habitation of a large family group. RH2 and RH3 appeared to be slighter structures lacking evidence for substantial internal roof support, and may have been used as animal shelters or for food preparation. The north eastern part of the enclosure was almost devoid of features which may be due to the extensive truncation through ploughing evident across the site. However, a rectangular feature with a burnt clay lining was preserved and has been interpreted as an oven. (A81.1990).

Eye Kettleby, Leicester Road, Melton Mowbray (SK 731 180) Neil Finn

Evaluation of this site between 1993 and 1995 using a variety of archaeological techniques, including field walking, geophysical, metal detector, and trial trenching surveys had suggested the presence of an extensive Anglo-Saxon settlement, as well as remains associated with the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) of Eye Kettleby. Activity on the site in the prehistoric period was also suggested by a scatter of flints located by the field walking survey.

Excavation of 3.2 hectares, approximately one quarter of the total site area, was undertaken by ULAS between 23/9/1996 and 28/2/1997 in advance of the industrial
1. Enderby: enclosures I and II
2. Enderby: excavation plan of enclosure II
development of the eastern half of the site in the spring of 1997. The excavation was funded by Wilson Bowden Properties Plc and Samworth Brothers Ltd.

In addition to the expected Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains an extensive prehistoric landscape was revealed. Over 60 apparently Bronze Age cremation burials were located, one third of which were urned. Over half of these were contained within a circular ditched enclosure c.40m in diameter. A second, larger, circular enclosure c.47m in diameter was situated immediately to the south of the first, with an entrance in the north, facing the cemetery. No cremations were deposited within this second enclosure although it may well have been associated with the funerary ritual. Two larger, sub-rectangular ditched enclosures were located to the east and west of the circular enclosures, the function of which remains uncertain.

An alignment of five substantial, apparently prehistoric, post holes was located to the west of the site, close to the ploughed out remains of a third, smaller, circular ditch. This measured c.19m in diameter and may have been the remains of a barrow, although any evidence of an associated burial had been destroyed by later ploughing. An Iron Age pit alignment was also located on the site. This consisted of a series of large pits c.2.5m square and 1m deep, spaced 1m apart over a distance of at least 200m. A ditch had subsequently been cut along the length of the pit alignment.

The remains of at least fourteen Anglo-Saxon halls and eighteen sunken feature buildings were discovered along with numerous pits, hearths and ditches. The halls varied considerably in size, ranging from 5m long by 3m wide up to 14m long and 4.5m wide. The overlapping plans of a number of these halls indicated that not all of the buildings were contemporary and several phases of occupation were represented on the site. Analysis of the structural remains will assist in determining the original form and function of these buildings. Provisional assessment of the finds data suggests that the settlement was established in the 5th/6th century and may have continued into the 7th century, although further analysis is required before comment on the size and longevity of the settlement can be made with any degree of confidence.

Remains associated with the Deserted Medieval Village of Eye Kettleby survive as a series of earthworks located in fields to the east and south-east of the excavation site. Aerial photographs of the area indicate that similar earthworks once occupied the eastern part of the development site but have subsequently been ploughed flat.

Excavation revealed a series of ditched enclosures on the periphery of the DMV. Situated close to the eastern site boundary, and post-dating one of these enclosures was a large building. This was approximately 20m long and 5.5m wide with a central doorway on its eastern (long) side. The position of the door was marked by a paved threshold with the door pivot stone surviving in situ. An extensive surface composed of large cobbles lay to the east and south of the building.

Analysis of the excavated data is currently underway. It is anticipated that further excavation will be carried out in 1997, with ULAS staff providing training for students from the School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester. (A15.1996).

**Launde (SK 80 03)**  
Lynden Cooper

A Late Glacial or early Postglacial flint scatter site was located within the corridor of the Wing to Whatborough water pipe line (see below) and was targeted for evaluation as it was a hilltop with commanding aspect to north, south and east. The site was identified during the excavation of an evaluation trench when a number of long
corticated flint blades was recovered during machining. A subsequent 1m square test pitting survey at 5m intervals demonstrated that the scatter was very localised, and had mostly escaped recent ploughing. One of the test pits (TP6) located immediately adjacent to the evaluation trench produced 129 pieces with only 25 (19%) of the material located within the plough-zone, the remainder located in a thin silty horizon at the surface of the boulder clay natural subsoil. There was a dramatic fall off from TP6 with neighbouring test pits producing between only 1-18 pieces. Based upon these results it was decided to excavate a 10 x 10m area around TP6, with limited removal of the upper topsoil by machine. The basal topsoil and artefact rich subsoil was removed by hand in 1cm deep spits with each find recorded three dimensionally.

Post excavation analysis of the material has barely started such that detailed typological and technological conclusions cannot be offered. The following description is based upon observations during fieldwork and a later scan of the material with R. Jacobi of the British Museum. The fieldwork produced 2,678 pieces of flint though this figure will increase following the sieving of soil samples. The flint was almost exclusively corticated from its original translucent brown to a bluish white or white colour, with many of the white pieces also mottled with a chocolate brown. The assemblage includes blade cores, blades, bladelets, crested blades, flakes, other waste material and a few retouched pieces (16). The blades were up to 146mm long and exhibited little curvature and both faceted and plain butts. None of the blades showed signs of utilisation such as retouch or edge damage. The cores included unifacial and prismatic examples, many with opposed platforms. Retouched pieces were sparse representing only 0.006% of the hand recovered material. They included three obliquely truncated points, five end scrapers, a Corbiac burin and five miscellaneous retouched pieces, which may all be regarded as tools, and two microburins.

The paucity of diagnostic tool types, the lack of any associated faunal or palynological evidence, and the absence of material suitable for radiocarbon assay necessitates some caution with the dating of the scatter. However, there are several typological and technological features which suggest that the material dates to the Late Glacial or early Postglacial. Some resolution is provided by the obliquely truncated points which can be compared with examples from Uxbridge, Middlesex, which have two associated radiocarbon dates of c.10,000 BP (Lewis 1991, p.253). One of the two recorded micro-burins shows evidence for large backed blade manufacture, which also suggests a date earlier than the Mesolithic. A date may be forthcoming from thermoluminescence dating of burnt pieces. The small defined size of the scatter and its technological attributes would suggest that the flintwork was produced by a single episode of activity rather than the palimpsests often observed with larger flint scatters. The nature of the activity certainly involved knapping to produce large blades, but further analysis is required before we can suggest what other functions the site may have fulfilled. A notable proportion of the flint has been burnt in antiquity, perhaps suggesting the former presence of a hearth. Perhaps the best clue to the function of the site may be its topographic position, a choice site presenting panoramic views across the flanking valleys where the movements of animal herds could be surveyed. (A41.1996).
Leicester, Haymarket (SK 589 045)  
Tim Higgins and Lynden Cooper

The construction of a new sub-station on Free Lane, as part of the Haymarket Towers Development on Humberstone Gate, necessitated an evaluation by ULAS in March 1996. Previous work including an evaluation by John Lucas in 1991 (TLAHS, 66, pp.186-7) had indicated the archaeological potential of the area believed to be within a Roman cemetery outside the East Gate and a possible medieval suburb. A number of Roman features were found cutting the natural subsoil including two possible beam slots and two shallow pits with four stake-holes immediately to the south. These features were sealed by two possible field ditches and ploughsoil relating to the medieval East Field of the town.

A watching brief of all groundworks was maintained in July and September 1996 by Tim Higgins. Much of the area had been destroyed by previous basements but there were occasional islands of undisturbed ground. Two burial vaults and three grave pits of the former 19th century Congregational chapel were located. The vaults and one of the grave pits had been emptied but the remaining graves contained an infant and the partial remains of an adult. These were subsequently reinterred at Gilroes Cemetery. A Roman inhumation was located during ground reduction works for a new service yard close to Fox Lane.

In October an excavation was undertaken in an area to the rear of Marks and Spencer’s store under the direction of L. Cooper. The area was targeted for controlled excavation due to the anticipated survival of deposits between basements. Early Roman features included several ditches and gullies on a north east to south west axis, which probably represent field ditches. In the later Roman period the area was used as a cemetery, evident from the location of twelve inhumation graves. The graves were variously orientated with no obvious pattern. Evidence for coffins in the form of nails was observed in many of the graves, and the better surviving examples will yield evidence for coffin construction. Three burials were accompanied by footwear, evident from hobnail boots, and from the position of hobnails within the grave it can be demonstrated that for at least one grave the footwear had been placed at the feet of the corpse, rather than being worn. One of the individuals had been buried with a small pottery vessel of later third or fourth century date. The burials are further examples from Roman Leicester’s eastern cemetery zone comparing with other burials previously located in this area such as those from Boots on Gallowtree Gate (TLAS, 15, pp.33-57) and Free Lane (TLAHS, 66, p.186). The next period of identified activity occurred in the medieval period when the area was part of the town’s East Field. Features of this date included field ditches and a large circular pit, possibly for sand extraction. A full report will be submitted following analysis. (A40.1996).
Market Bosworth, Cattle Market (SK 4073 0306) James Gossip

In June 1996, excavation was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Cadeby Homes at the site of the old cattle market on Rectory Lane. Evaluation in March by Susan Ripper had suggested Iron Age and medieval activity, and a number of prehistoric and Roman discoveries had been made in the past around the historic core of the town (SMR ref: 40SW.CT). Excavation of three trenches (A-C) revealed a series of features which can be provisionally placed into three phases on the basis of stratigraphic and ceramic associations, and orientation. Phase 1 comprised a large butt-ended ditch running north-south across trench A, the fill of which contained a Roman tile and probable Iron Age pottery. Parts of a second length of ditch on the same alignment occurred in the north of the same trench and again in trench A. These ditches are thought to represent Roman field boundaries. Phase 2 comprised a group of discrete post holes to the east of this ditch line, the arrangement of which suggested either a flimsy rectangular post structure, or two fence lines running roughly in parallel to both the phase 1 ditch, and a phase 3 ditch to the east. However, a lack of dating evidence from their fills could not verify a relationship. Phase 3 features comprised a series of ditch lengths, including those found during the evaluation, lying at right angles to one another, and which are suggestive of five medieval property boundaries relating to house plots fronting on to Park Street and The Market Place. Unfortunately only two of the features contained pottery, which dated to the 12th and 13th century. (A19.1996).

Oadby (SK 632 017) Susan Ripper

Salvage excavations were undertaken by ULAS in March 1996 at the site of the proposed University Playing Fields, adjacent to the line of the Gartree Road 6.4km south east of Leicester. Metal detecting in the early 1980s and fieldwalking in 1993 had noted a concentration of Roman smallfinds and pottery respectively in the northern part of the area closest to the road (illus. 3). Following observation of archaeological features by members of the Oadby Fieldwalking Group, a one week excavation, directed by Susan Ripper and Lynden Cooper, revealed a complex of structures about 100m to the south of the road line comprising a series of ditch features with associated post holes, the foundations of a rectangular ironstone building, and the foundations of a circular cobble built structure. The different elements could not be related to each other stratigraphically and limited dating evidence has not enabled any relative sequence to be constructed.

The first group comprised the southern portion of a presumably oval shaped enclosure flanked by two linear ditches to the east and one to the west, all running in a northerly direction (illus. 4). The oval-shaped enclosure defined by the ditch was 17m by 14m internally. The northern part of the ditch circuit was entirely truncated by recent groundworks, but in the southern part it survived to a depth of 0.8m, and was up to 2m wide. No dating evidence came from the ditch fill, although late first to early second century pottery was collected from the surface. Nine post holes were identified in the enclosure but did not form a coherent pattern. The western part of the enclosure ditch was cut by a rectangular pit containing pottery of mid-first to early second century date.
3. Oadby: Location and site plan

4. Oadby: enclosure and associated ditches
The lengths of linear ditches exposed to the east and west of the enclosure were also associated with pottery of early Roman date. The western ditch cut a series of shallow curved gullies, one of which contained a sherd of late Iron Age pottery. The northernmost part of the most easterly ditch was cut by an inhumation burial associated again with early Roman pottery placed near to the skull. The skeleton was supine, oriented north to south, with arms folded across the body. Analysis by Simon Chapman identified the individual as a 17-18 year old male, of reasonable stature and in good health at the time of death. No evidence for cause of death could be found.

To the east of the enclosure lay the cobble stone foundations of a circular structure, 10m in diameter (illus. 5). Lack of time precluded a detailed investigation.
of the interior, but two areas of burning were noted in the north west part, and a post hole towards the centre. Pottery overlying the structure dated from the first to the fourth century.

To the north of the enclosure and 75m south of the road, lay the remains of a rectangular building 16m by 13m in size, the north wall of which appeared to have two apsidal projections facing towards the road (illus. 6). Poor weather and waterlogging made excavation difficult, but in areas where the wall line was not exposed, it was detected by probing. The structure was best preserved on the south side where cobbled foundations supported at least two courses of faced ironstone walling, 0.5m wide.

The earliest structures on the site appear to be the curving gullies of late Iron Age date possibly representing the remains of timber round house structures. At least one of the linear ditches post dated these and may represent reorganisation in the early Roman period. However, this complex, including the oval enclosure appears to have fallen into disuse by the early second century. It is impossible to say how the round and rectangular stone buildings relate to these early structures.
The construction of stone round houses was common in Britain during the first and second centuries AD, and similar examples are known from Ravenstone, Leics. (*TLAHS*, 56, pp.104-7), Weldon, Northants. (Smith, Hird and Dix 1989, pp.23-68) and Stanwick Northants. (Neal 1989, 157). The presence of fourth century pottery indicates a long-lived settlement, of which the present excavations may only have revealed a small part. (A35.1996).

**Bibliography**


**Oakham, Market Place: the Stocks (SK 8609 0883)** Richard Pollard

Restoration of the historic stocks required the archaeological excavation of the post holes into which the two posts were to be reset. This was undertaken by LMAST, assisted by John Crossley and Richard Allen of the Rutland County Museum. Remnants of both posts that had been left *in situ* on removal of the stocks in 1993 were recovered. Stone slabs encountered in the hinge post hole may represent a packing around the post, but are undated; they lay some 0.42m below the stone plinth of the Butter Cross. A sherd of possible Nottingham ware was recovered from a layer of ironstone fragments (possibly the Marlstone Rock Bed 'natural') below the lock end post stump. This may provide a terminus post quem of c.1250-1300 for the setting of the stocks.

A void in the inner face of the lock end post hole lined up with rotten wood in the inner face of the hinge post hole, at a depth of approximately 0.29m to 0.34m below the plinth. It would appear that a horizontal beam formerly joined the two posts, but had been removed. This may have been an earlier, undated, attempt to strengthen the stocks by tying them together. No record was made of this feature when the stocks were repaired in the 1980s and the posts set in concrete.

No archaeological evidence for the date of the stocks was recovered; a document of 1296 refers to the costs incurred by the Earl of Cornwall in repairing them. It is clear that archaeological deposits exist to a depth of at least 0.5m below the plinth.

The recovered wood was placed in a freezer at Newarke Houses Museum, Leicester whilst advice on its long term conservation was sought; the stocks, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, are the property of the Lord of the Manor of Oakham. (A8.1997).

**Seaton, Thompsons Lane (SP 90 98)** Richard Pollard

Evidence has accumulated for the existence of an inhumation cemetery on the north-east edge of the village, north of Thompsons Lane (*TLAHS*, 70, p.170). A fourth inhumation was encountered during landscaping work on the same property in May 1996, and was excavated by LMAST. The skeleton was badly decayed, and was unassociated with grave goods. Small sherds of Roman and Saxo-Norman
pottery were found in the ploughsoil above the grave. An assessment report on the skeleton by Simon Chapman of ULAS established the individual to have been male, in excess of 1.65m tall, and of 35 to 45 years of age.

The two excavated skeletons, and so far as can be determined, the 1988 bones, lay broadly west-east. Fragments of leg bone were revealed in a service trench in August 1996. These may represent a single burial, but this is uncertain.

The four findspots of human bone lie within an area 13m x 6m. The extent of the cemetery is unknown, but possible grave cuts were recorded during a watching brief on the property to the east, in 1995-6 (TLAHS, 70, p.170). These lie some 30m south-east of the known inhumations, which themselves lay some 35m north-east of the Anglo-Saxon cremation urn, perhaps 6th century, reported in 1981 (TLAHS, 56, p.120).

The site is some 120m north of the parish church of All Hallows, which has 12th century features. Domesday records the presence of a priest in Seaton. Circumstantial evidence therefore suggests that this cemetery could be of Anglo-Saxon date, using ground established for burial in the pagan period. The proximity to the urn, and distance from the church, suggests that the inhumations themselves are of the pagan period. This was, for the Middle Anglians, coming to a close in the 7th century, as Christian missionaries were invited to begin a campaign of conversion in 653AD.

The Seaton cemetery has in common with others in the region a location on Inferior Oolite Series formations, being at the junction of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone with the Lower Estuarine Series, close to Northampton Sand Ironstone and Lias Clay deposits (cf Leeds and Barber 1950). Neighbouring sites include Glaston (2.5km to the north) and North Luffenham (6.5km north-east) in Rutland, and Wakerley, Northants (3.5km to the east). Glaston and Wakerley were both inhumation cemeteries, whilst North Luffenham comprised both cremations and inhumations. Further north, the recently published cemetery at Empingham, with 133 inhumations and one cremation recorded, also lies on the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone close to the Lower Estuarine Series and the Northampton Sand Ironstone (Timby 1996, 1); the smaller inhumation cemetery styled Empingham I is also close to the junction of the exposure of these formations. (A53.1996 & A54.1996).

Bibliography


Wing to Whatborough, Excavations along the Water Pipeline (SK 89 02 to SK 77 05) Matt Beamish

At the invitation of Anglian Water plc, ULAS were involved in the second phase of a relief pipeline begun in 1991 (TLAHS, 66, p.183 & p.188). The line covered an approximately 30m wide easement, over 13km from Wing, Rutland to Whatborough, Leicestershire. A preliminary archaeological assessment was prepared based on
available records and a walk of the line, which was quickly followed by trial trenching, field walking and geophysical survey; areas were finally targeted for excavation. A watching brief was maintained over other parts of the line.

All the recorded sites were located along a 7km ironstone ridge running east-west on the southern side of the River Chater, in the Parishes of Launde, Leighfield, Ridlington, and Preston. The extents of the ridge are marked by Sites 1 and 10 (illus. 7).

Finds and records made along the pipeline are listed below with a summary presented chronologically.

A rare early prehistoric knapping site of Late Glacial or Early Post Glacial date was excavated at Launde, Site 1 (A41.1996) (Launde, above p.00). A pit containing microliths, small blades, and blade-cores of probable later Mesolithic date (L. Cooper, pers. comm.) was excavated at Ridlington, Site 5, (A25.1996). A large scatter of Mesolithic flintwork has previously been found in this parish (Liddle 1982, pp.9-10).

A pit containing Bronze Age pottery was excavated in Ridlington, Site 3 (A43.1996) to the east of two post-built round houses of Bronze Age or Iron Age date, Site 2 (A23.1996). Further areas of Iron Age settlement were excavated in Ridlington, Sites 4, 5, 6, and 7 (A24.1996, A25.1996, A26.1996, and A27.1996 respectively) and Preston, Sites 8, 9, and 10 (A51.1996, A49.1996, A50.1996 respectively). Boundary systems indicated by aerial photographs, including single and double ditch forms of probable Iron Age date, were found in Ridlington and Preston, Sites 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (Acc. Nos as above). Two areas of clear Roman settlement were found in Ridlington, Sites 3 & 5 (Acc. No. as above) and two areas adjacent to settlement (Sites 4 & 6). A number of possible structures and enclosures were recorded. Site 5 was notable for five ovens or kilns, the largest of which measured 3.8m long. A roundhouse recorded at Site 3 was of Roman date.

Clear evidence of iron smelting was recorded in Ridlington at Sites 3 and 5. Quantities of tap and smelting slags were excavated from a number of features; the presence of in situ linings and burning in some of these features (Site 3), together with in situ slag deposits (Site 5) indicates that they were integral to the smelting process. This information follows recent surface finds made by Elaine Jones and Jane Cowgill in the very south of the parish (Cowgill and Jones 1996) and is further evidence of iron smelting in the area.

It is hoped that analysis of the archaeological finds made along the line will soon begin; the collation of the data, study of the flint, pottery, industrial materials and environmental remains will enable valid interpretations of past land uses and settlement patterns, over both phases of the pipeline.

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7. Wing to Whatborough Hill Pipeline showing location of sites mentioned in text and affected parishes.
EVALUATIONS

Ashby de la Zouch, (SK 3586 1679)  
David Smith and Richard Buckley

In April 1996, evaluation was undertaken by ULAS at the Bull’s Head Public House in Market St. on behalf of Allied Domecq Leisure in order to assess the impact of proposed alterations. The building is a Grade II* listed timber-framed structure of late 15th century date, with an 18th century property adjoining, and has been in use as a public house since at least 1791 and perhaps as early as the mid-seventeenth century. Limited ‘opening-up’ was undertaken to evaluate the historic potential of features to be altered. Whilst most features proved to be modern insertions, others contained late medieval or early post-medieval timber framing. In particular, two cross walls with a void between were examined. One of the cross walls was shown to be timber framed, and originally an external gable wall. The void contained a brick chimney stack of the 18th century which in all probability replaced an earlier timber chimney with clay daubed flue, a form common in Leicestershire during the 16th and 17th centuries. This external chimney was subsequently obscured when further bays of building were added. Since these features were of historical importance, the proposals were subsequently redesigned by the architects in consultation with the Conservation officer and ULAS to ensure preservation. The excavation of foundation trenches to the rear of the property revealed a late medieval yard surface and a stone-lined well. (Finds and records with Leicestershire Museums X.A17.1997).

Breedon on the Hill and Worthington (SK 411 215)  
Simon Chapman

An evaluation was undertaken by ULAS for Breedon plc in the area of a proposed extension to Cloud Hill limestone quarry. Fieldwalking survey undertaken by ULAS had indicated a concentration of prehistoric flint in the north west of the development area, but trial trenching could not confirm the existence of any earthfast archaeological evidence, except for a linear feature of post-medieval date. (A106.1996).

Cossington, Platts Lane (SK 631 133)  
Matthew Beamish

Evaluation work was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Countryside Planning and Management and Wanlip Gravels Ltd in advance of proposed aggregate extraction in five fields to the north of Platt’s Lane. Aerial photographs had previously provided cropmark evidence for two possibly intersecting pit alignments and a ring ditch. Geophysical survey undertaken in 1995 (GSB Prospection report 95/113), and small scale trenching indicated that the putative pit alignments were not archaeological in origin, but probably located the ring ditch, which from the existence of a post setting may have been structural. In addition the trenching revealed a previously unrecognised ditch or pit containing late Iron Age pottery. (A5.1996).

Dunton Bassett (SP 537 892)  
Matthew Beamish

Geophysical survey and trial trenching were undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford and ULAS respectively on behalf of Countryside Planning and Management.
and Bruntingthorpe Gravels Ltd. Geophysical survey in the area of a proposed extension to the Slip Inn sand and gravel quarry had indicated the possible existence of archaeological deposits. However, the three trial trenches failed to confirm this although finds of prehistoric flint, and Roman and medieval pottery were retrieved, (A96.1996).

**Hemington Fields, Castle Donington (SK 463 303)**

Neil Finn

In January, evaluation of two circular features visible on night time thermal infra-red photographs, and tentatively identified as barrows, produced no evidence on the ground. A number of medieval or later features including a possible hollow way were, however, identified.

**Leicester, Castle (SK 582 041)**

Neil Finn and Richard Buckley

During April and May 1996, ULAS undertook a programme of survey and archaeological field evaluation on behalf of Leicestershire County Council in advance of a Scheduled Monument Consent application to convert the Great Hall and John of Gaunt's cellar into a new visitor attraction.

*John of Gaunt's Cellar*

Previous work associated with the repair and conservation of the undercroft had included elevational drawings of the interior and exterior, with a record of masons' marks, and limited evaluative excavation to clarify the plan of the south facade (*TLAHS* 1994). The current work was designed to evaluate the impact of a new covered access, paving and drainage works in the yard above the undercroft, where deposits associated with the former kitchen block which stood until the early 18th century were anticipated.

Trial trenches in the yard revealed the east wall and mortared rubble capping of the undercroft beneath only about 100-200mm of tarmac and overburden, but no evidence for the medieval structures which stood above it. The east wall continued north, beyond the north wall of the undercroft, pointing to the presence of ground floor rooms (perhaps the buttery and pantry) between the undercroft and Great Hall. Any further evidence for these rooms was probably destroyed when the south cross wing of the Great Hall, incorporating basement-level cells, was erected in the 1850s. On the east side of the covered yard, partly above the vault, the brick foundations of a range of buildings running south from the Great Hall were uncovered. These are likely to be of the mid to late 18th century and appear on a Duchy of Lancaster plan of 1799.

*The Great Hall*

Limited removal of plaster from 19th century walls in the west aisle to evaluate the impact of internal alterations on historic fabric revealed parts of the west face of the two northernmost 12th century aisle posts of the west arcade. It had been hoped that evidence of jointing might survive which would confirm constructional details of the aisle roofs in the 12th century. Walls had initially been built between the posts of the west arcade in 1821 to divide the nave from the east aisle. These walls were thickened
in the later 19th century with ceramic flues and an additional skin of brick. After removal of cladding it became clear that the aisle posts had been trimmed longitudinally in 1821 to create a true vertical face for the new walls, to the extent that they were reduced in thickness from some 400mm to only 50-100mm at the top. This effectively destroyed all evidence of jointing and surface treatment on the west face. A miniature video camera was lowered down a flue immediately adjacent to the northernmost post in order that the west face could be inspected for its entire length, but no significant structural features such as joints or dowel holes were observed. Exploration of a 19th century heating flue beneath the west aisle in this area led to the surprising discovery that the base of this post survived intact, resting on its original padstone of Danehills sandstone. Paired mortices, with single peg holes, on the north, east and south faces of the post at the base suggest the presence of a timber framework rising about 750mm above floor level, and almost certainly associated with the dais structure. Further exploration beneath the floor showed that this is the only post base of the five in this arcade to have survived. The east arcade was destroyed in the 19th century.

Trial holes in the east aisle to evaluate the impact of a disable access ramp revealed extensive disturbance and no evidence for medieval floor levels of the hall.

5 Castle View

Three trial pits were examined in the garden of 5 Castle View to evaluate the impact of the construction of a cross wall associated with a new access route from the motte into the yard. This revealed a substantial depth of comparatively recent deposits along with the sandstone foundations of a wall probably associated with later medieval buildings on the south side of the Castle Yard (see also TLAHS, 60, pp.92-3). (A56. 1996).

Leicester, Oxford St (SK 585 039) Tim Higgins

In January 1996 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS, on behalf of Allied Domecq Leisure Ltd, to the rear of Ye Olde Bowling Green Public House on Oxford St. Three phases of activity were detected, with archaeological deposits being encountered at a depth of 0.5m and having a total depth of 1.15m. Phase 1 comprised sandy gravels of uncertain date, sealed by spreads and features of 13th to 14th century date (phase 2). The presence of residual Roman and possibly Anglo-Saxon pottery might indicate that Phase 1 activity related to these periods. The phase 2 features included a cess pit and three possible ovens with clay lining and represent fairly typical medieval backyard activity, adding to the picture of this medieval suburb already examined across the road in Bonners Lane (TLAHS 68, pp.165-70). The phase 3 post medieval activity comprising garden soil and rubbish pits related to the present structure and its 17th century precursor. (A7.1996).

Leicester, West Bridge Place (SK 582 042) Tim Higgins

Between May and July 1996 an evaluation was undertaken by ULAS for William Davis Ltd on the site of a proposed public house at West Bridge Place, formerly
grounds of the Pex Factory on the west bank of the Soar and south side of St Augustine’s Road. Five trenches were examined and deposits were divided into three zones based on character and dating. Zone 1 (trenches 1, 3, and 4) comprised Roman deposits including a possible beam slot, a post hole and a ditch, associated with early second to early third century pottery, and sealed by a truncated medieval garden soil. Roman building materials including tile, tesserae and wall plaster were also found. Zone 2 (trenches 1-3) revealed waterlogged medieval rubbish deposits containing leather offcuts, wood fragments and pottery of 12th to 13th century date, sealed by black silty clay deposits of an early river channel, found running across the eastern side of the site. Zone 3 (trenches 4 and 5) represents a probable riverbank revetted with large granite boulders, and overlain by makeups of 12th to 14th century date. These layers were cut by a variety of medieval constructional features possibly related to buildings that would have fronted onto the West Bridge approach. (A97.1996).

Loughborough, Epinal Way (SP 547 176)  
James Meek

An evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Leicestershire County Council along the proposed extension of Epinal Way. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered besides evidence for medieval ridge and furrow and possible field boundaries pre-dating the Great Central Railway. (A105.1996).

Lutterworth, Mill Farm (SP 547 840)  
James Gossip

An evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in July 1996 on behalf of Hallam Land Management Ltd. The proposed development area is believed to have been the site of the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist (SMR Ref. 58SW.AW) and the associated Spital Mill (SMR Ref 58SW.AU). No structural remains of the hospital were uncovered, although a number of graves possibly related to its cemetery were found. Features containing post medieval building materials and pottery could relate to the demolition of a house known as ‘The Spittal’ thought to have subsequently occupied the hospital site. Excavation on the site of the Spital Mill revealed the post-medieval building, mill race and underlying deposits of 12th or early 13th century date which could relate to its medieval predecessor. (A98.1996).

Melton Mowbray, Anne of Cleves House (SK 753 189)  
Neil Finn and Martin Shore

In December 1996, an evaluation was carried out by ULAS on behalf of Everards Brewery Ltd., who wished to construct a cellar store to the rear of Anne of Cleves House on Burton Street. The cellar store was to occupy the same ground plan as the former kitchen, thought to be a 20th century addition to the 14th century stone building, but the increased depth and width of the new foundation necessitated an evaluation. Excavations revealed a linear foundation or wall running north-west and an associated pebble surface, probably dating to the late medieval or early post-medieval period. (A147.1995).
Seagrave, Hall Farm (SK 618 174) Joanna Sturgess

In August 1996 an evaluation was undertaken by ULAS within the former village earthworks at Seagrave. The work was commissioned by Mr L.R. Evans in advance of a development affecting a suggested hollow way earthwork running east west and separating the manorial enclosure from an area of banked closes to the south. Excavations to the north revealed no structural remains of the manor or associated buildings while those across the earthwork and to the south, exposed collapsed bank material and possible enclosure ditches containing 12th or early 13th century pottery. (A107. 1996).

Shepshed, St Botolphs Church (SK481 197) Jeannette Wells and Sally Warren

Evaluation undertaken by ULAS in May 1996, prior to the installation of a new drainage scheme at St Botolph’s Church, revealed no significant archaeological deposits. Two 2m by 1m test trenches were excavated at points around the perimeter of the building and small amounts of medieval and post medieval material was retrieved. (A92.1996).

Thurmaston, Charnwood Avenue (SP 616 097) Tim Higgins

No significant archaeological deposits or material were recovered during an evaluation in advance of residential development to the north west of Charnwood Avenue. The work was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Raglan Housing Association Ltd., due to the development’s proximity to the Fosse Way and other known archaeological sites. The small amount of Roman and medieval pottery retrieved was indicative of manuring scatters. (A103.1996).

WATCHING-BRIEFS

Ab Kettleby, Melton Road (SK 725 231) Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers undertook a watching brief on a single house development next to the main Melton to Nottingham Road and adjacent to a moated site to the east of the parish church. Stone wall foundations (0.5m wide and 0.5m deep) with sherds of 12th century pottery embedded between the stones were recorded. A scatter of early medieval potsherds and a flint scatter spanning Neolithic to Bronze Age were also recorded over the site. No buildings are documented for the site after 1820 (OS Maps) and the wall construction with rubble core supports a medieval date. The finds are with the authors pending completion of their report.
Anstey, Cropston Rd (SK 554 110 to SK 558 099) Sally Warren

Raw water main laying by Severn Trent Water Ltd, revealed evidence for an earlier cobbled road surface of uncertain date within the village of Cropston. A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS at several points along the route of the new main along Cropston Rd, Reservoir Road and Anstey Lane, but no other archaeological evidence was encountered. (A111.1996).

Asfordby, Main Street (SK 708 189) Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers undertook a watching brief assisted by Richard Pollard of LMAST on a large housing development on glebeland adjacent to the east wall of the parish churchyard. The burnt stone foundations of a medieval oven were excavated and recorded (associated with early medieval potsherds, mainly greenglaze and, above, later medieval wares). The oven, adjacent to the west wall of thick stone house foundations, was 1.5m in diameter. To the north, the stone foundations of a large bayed early medieval house were surveyed. Large fragments of mullion windows and stone doorcases were recovered from this area - the connection with the house foundations is not proven - but the stones had been used to ‘metal’ a path to the rear of the site. The house foundations were also associated with early to late medieval potsherds. An early medieval pottery scatter over the rest of the site together with worked flints and one flint from a flintlock musket were also recovered. The finds are with the authors pending completion of their report, but will be archived with Leicester Museum (A9.1997).

Ashby de la Zouch, North Street (SK 358 169) Richard Pollard

The excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to No.28 North Street, Ashby de la Zouch, was watched by the author for LMAST. The site lies to the rear of the Bulls Head, 67 Market Street (SMR ref.31NE.R) within the historic core of the town (SMR ref.31NE.Y). No significant archaeological deposits were encountered, nor finds made.

Ashby de la Zouch, The Lamb Inn (SK 3581 1673) Tim Higgins

In August and September 1996, ULAS undertook a watching brief, on behalf of Bass Taverns Ltd, at The Lamb Inn Public House on Market St. A previous desk-based assessment had indicated that the proposed alterations to the kitchen and backyard would have a minimal impact on the Grade II Listed Building of late 15th to 16th century date. Excavation in the back yard revealed that any archaeological features had been truncated by previous post-medieval and modern developments on the site. Internal alterations exposed three timber beams, none of which were in situ, but two of which almost certainly belong to the original timber framed structure. Survey highlighted the remarkable preservation on the upper floors of the building and the potential for further research. (A113.1996).
Blaby, Blaby Hall (SP 570 976)  Patrick Clay
A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during topsoil stripping for a car park off Welford Rd. Make up deposits probably connected with the landscaping of the grounds of Blaby Hall were recognised.

Blaby, Old Blaby Hospital (SP 578 967)  Sally Warren
A watching brief undertaken by ULAS during the connection of a new foul drain and gas supply at Old Blaby Hospital, revealed no evidence of archaeological deposits or materials, despite proximity to previous finds of Bronze Age date. (A124.1996).

Blaby, Wigston Road (SP 570 979)  Richard Pollard
The excavation of foundation trenches for a garage, adjacent to the new rectory, was watched by the author for LMAST, accompanied by Mrs G Lee and Mrs S Wilson of Blaby Parish Council. A sequence of c. 18th-20th century features was recorded against the north boundary wall of the Church’s grounds, dated by pottery and building materials incorporated in their fills. The parish church, All Saints, lies some 50m to the south-west. A service trench along the driveway into Wigston Road, watched by Mrs Lee, Mrs Wilson and Mr S Smith, also failed to yield any significant archaeological finds.

Braunston Manor, Rutland (SK 8340 0656)  David Smith and Elaine L. Jones
Permission for redevelopment at Braunston Manor and its grounds by Sandlewood Homes provided the opportunity for an assessment of the existing building and a watching brief during construction work. Visual inspection of the building confirmed that most of the original interior fabric had been removed and that alterations would have little impact on significant structural remains. Construction work revealed evidence for Roman activity including a cobbled surface associated with later third and fourth century pottery and roofing tile. Early Anglo-Saxon, medieval and later pottery were also retrieved. (A1.1996).

Brooksby, Nr. Melton (SP 672 161)  Sally Warren
In November 1995, a watching brief was undertaken by ULAS at Brooksby Agricultural College on behalf of the college during the construction of a dining hall extension. The line of a large linear ditch was detected in trenches 1 and 4 running north west-south east, the dating and function of which is uncertain, but along with the made up ground detected elsewhere may be connected to the landscaping of the Hall grounds. A brick arched foundation relating to an earlier, but undated, phase of building was also revealed.
Burbage, Hinckley Road (SP 442 928)  
Richard Pollard

A watching brief was undertaken by Max Joyce, Sheila Lockett and Keith Scott for the Hinckley Fieldwork Group and LMAST. The site lies immediately north of the parish church, St. Catherine's, and was proposed for residential development; a desk top assessment (Courtney 1995) suggested it had a low archaeological potential. Observation of the sides of foundation trenches, and checking of the spoil heaps, revealed only post-medieval pottery and building materials. The finds and archive are with LM (A45.1996).

Bibliography

Courtney, P., 1995  
*Hinckley Road, Burbage, Leicestershire: an archaeological desk-top assessment* unpublished (ULAS Report No.95/145)

Burbage, Sketchley Old Village (SP 425 921)  
Richard Pollard

The excavation of foundation trenches for a single house was watched by the author for LMAST. The site lies opposite Sketchley Hall, in the area recorded by Nichols (1811, p.468) as being the site of a medieval chapel (SMR ref.49SW.W) within Sketchley village. The grounds of the Hall had previously been evaluated and watched, with limited success (Meek 1995 and *TLAHS*, 70, p.158). No significant archaeological deposits were observed, and a few sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered, which remain in the possession of the landowner.

Bibliography

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*An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at Sketchley Hall, Sketchley Old Village, Burbage, Leicestershire.* (LAU Report No.95/09)

Nichols, J., 1811  
*The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* Vol.IV, Part II containing Sparkenhoe Hundred (re-publication of 1971; Wakefield: S.R.)

Burley on the Hill, Burley House (c.SK 883 101)  
Richard Pollard

Inspections were made of foundation trenches on two sites within the grounds of Burley House. No significant archaeological deposits were observed, but the hidden brick arches of the south terrace retaining wall were exposed. This terrace carried a greenhouse, on the site of the Melon Ground shown in a 1783 plan (reproduced in Hartley, 1983, Fig.8.2; SK 8825 1006). A single sherd of early medieval pottery was found on this terrace, which lies some 100m south of the medieval church, Holy Cross. The find and archives are with LM (A7.1997).

Bibliography

Hartley, R.F., 1983  
*The Medieval Earthworks of Rutland.* Leicester: Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service
Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for the dredging of the south-eastern arm of the moat in the north corner of the medieval leper colony (Hartley 1987, Fig.13, a). This was monitored by the authors for LMAST. The dredging itself brought to light just two fragments of dressed masonry, but stone alignments were recorded immediately south-west of the moat. To the north, and continuing the line of the north-west edge of the dredged arm, a wall some 900mm thick with a rubble core faced with dressed ironstone was traced for 3.5m. A second masonry feature lies above the extension to the moat on its south-west corner that provides a ramp into the water. A line of five roughly dressed ironstone and limestone blocks runs south-west to north-east, a minimum of two courses in height. This turns north-west for at least 2.5m, parallel to the moat's west end, and may form a foundation or revetment. Both masonry features are partly exposed where cattle and other traffic have worn away the turf. Hartley records building foundations in the general area (ibid., Fig.13, f). A photographic record was made for English Heritage, and the Site Archive is held by LM under Leics. SMR Ref.no.71NE.AD. The smaller of the two dressed stones, a fragment of chamfered shelly limestone, is held by LM.

Bibliography


Melton Fieldworkers conducted a watching brief at 3 Pebble Yard, recovering Saxo-Norman and early medieval pottery. To the rear of the adjacent cottage (SMR Ref. no.71SW.AJ), a re-used, carved stone doorcase (now back door) and in the (part) ironstone cellars, two sets of mullion windows (different dates) were recorded. All date to the late/post medieval period and appear to be part of an older house on this site when the cellar area would have been above ground; it has since been covered by a natural or man-made build up of soil outside. The finds are with the authors pending completion of their report.

Clawson, Hose and Harby: Long Clawson, West End (SK 721 271)  

Melton Fieldworkers carried out a watching brief on the Hollytree Brook housing development, West End. A dense scatter of early medieval potsherds (shelly wares/12th century green glaze) was located in a field called Castle Close on the Enclosure Map of 1795, close to the Church and Saxon earthworks with a moated site in Castle Field (Hartley 1987, Fig.30, SMR Ref.72NW.AE). Earlier, Saxo-Norman potsherds restricted to a small area of natural sand in the centre of the site. No later finds relating to the later medieval and post-medieval periods were recovered. The finds are with the authors pending completion of their report.
Bibliography

Clawson, Hose and Harby: Long Clawson, West End (SK 721 270)  Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers watched a building site in West End, opposite to and south of the Hollytree Brook development. A few sherds of medieval pottery (early) and Victorian and recent potsherds were recovered. Terraces relating to garden landscaping on the site were surveyed prior to complete removal. The finds are with the authors pending completion of their report.

Clawson, Hose and Harby: Long Clawson, St. Remigius church (SK 722 272)  Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers maintained a watching brief during the rebuilding of the boundary wall to St. Remigius churchyard, revealing evidence of worked stones from the fabric of the church and re-used in the wall at some unknown period. Evidence of a previous wrought iron gate/fence on the top of the wall was discovered for which there is no documentary or pictorial records.

Clawson, Hose and Harby: Long Clawson, East End (SK 729 276)  Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers watched the excavation of a 17th century stone well at Dovecote Pastures. It is proposed that the well be reinstated.

Clawson, Hose and Harby: Long Clawson, The Sands (SK 726 274)  Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers undertook a watching brief during the erection of an electricity pole in the centre of The Sands. Brick foundations of back-to-back housing of ‘The City’ were revealed, and 19th century pottery recovered. The site is now a parish green.

Clawson, Hose and Harby: Long Clawson, Melton Road (SK 725 253)  Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers undertook a watching brief during construction of a new farmhouse at Hilltop Farm. The foundations of 19th century farm buildings were revealed; no artefacts older then these buildings were recovered.
Clawson, Hose and Harby: Long Clawson, Waltham Lane (SK 733 269 to 736 264)  
Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers watched drainage works and carriageway strengthening alongside Waltham Lane, near to findspots of prehistoric and Roman dates (SMR refs.72NW.Y and 72NW.AF respectively). A few sherds of early medieval pottery were recovered, but no finds relating to those previously made in the area. The finds are with the authors.

Coalville, Ashby Road (SK 422 144)  
Sally Warren

Earlier road surfaces were observed by ULAS during the laying of new water mains along Ashby Road by Severn Trent Water Ltd. (A119.1996).

Croxton Kerrial, Lings Hill (SK 811 280)  
Norman Fahy

Roadworks on the A607 at the junction with Green Lane were watched by the author. The site is crossed by a Roman road, which Green Lane and the A607 east of it follow (Margary Route 58a: Margary 1955, 195). An area was stripped of topsoil just north-west of the cross-roads with the Branston road, but no features were exposed. The main drainage cutting immediately south of the re-aligned A607 opposite the Branston road also produced a negative archaeological result, despite its length of 130m and depth of 1.5m cutting into the natural sandstone. The archive is with LM (SMR Ref.82NW.AE).

Bibliography


Earl Shilton, The Poplars (SP 474 981)  
Richard Pollard

Topsoil stripping for a housing development on the glacial sand and gravel ridge east of the parish church, off Church Street, was inspected by the author, and Sheila Lockett of the Hinckley Fieldwork Group. Finds of Roman pottery had previously been made between church and site, which lies within the historic core of the village. A single sherd of Oxfordshire red colour coated ware (3rd-4th century AD) was recovered. This, previous finds (A92.1982) and the archive are with LM (SMR Ref.49NE.C).

Eaton, Chapel Street (SK 798 291)  
Richard Pollard

Norman Fahy watched the levelling down and excavation of foundations at 19 Chapel Street, a site within the historic core of the village. The archaeological result was negative.
Enderby, Grove Park (SP 54 99)  Richard Pollard

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during landscaping in advance of development at Grove Park, Enderby, Leicestershire, by the author for LMAST. The areas observed lay outside the immediate environs of two Iron Age enclosures, and were believed to be of relatively low archaeological potential. Hearths were recorded, and a number of flint tools and flakes recovered. The enclosure areas were watched by ULAS. The archive and finds are with LM (Al 08.1996).

Enderby, Grove Park (SP 550 000)  Susan Ripper and Matt Beamish

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during site clearance and landscaping ahead of business park development for Centre 21 Ltd. The area lies on the site of Grove Farm, 5km south west of Leicester and included two partially excavated Iron Age enclosures (see Enderby, above p.88) (illus. 8). Immediately north and east of the southern enclosure (II), lay a number of features including a ditch containing Iron Age pottery, possible post holes, a possible hearth and a number of curvilinear gullies. Evidence from within and outside the northern enclosure was more substantial. Within the enclosure, features additional to those previously recognised during the 1983-4 excavations included further ring gullies belonging to roundhouse structures, a four post structure, pits, and possible hearths. To the south east of the enclosure, three further sets of ring gullies were observed as well as a number of pits. About 140m to the west of the enclosure, one or possibly two human cremations were identified and excavated.

The discovery of round house structures outside the northern enclosure is particularly significant and may suggest a progression from unenclosed to enclosed settlement. The complex in this part of the Soar Valley with two enclosure and fourteen house structures represents the largest from the County. (A113.1996). The discovery of the apparently isolated cremations, of probable Iron Age date, away from any archaeological foci is important in the study of Iron Age funerary practices.

Essendine, Rutland (TF 0465 1276)  Elaine L. Jones

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS, on behalf of DGH Properties Ltd, during site clearance for the construction of a house and garage on Manor Lane. Excavation revealed stone walls, a pit, and a ditch, associated with Saxo-Norman Stamford Ware and other early medieval pottery, and represents the earliest known structures in the village. Analysis of the pottery by Deborah Sawday suggested activity ranging from the 11th to 15th century. The alignment of the north-south ditch and wall appears to respect a land boundary which extends north to Manor Farm. (A110.1996).

Frisby on the Wreake (SK 697 177)  Patrick Clay

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during mains renewal by Severn Trent Water Ltd along Great Lane, which passes through the historic village core. No archaeological deposits were located and no material retrieved.
Great Casterton, Rutland (TF 0013 0896)  
Adrian Challands  

A watching brief undertaken during a residential development at Strawson’s Farm, towards the centre of the Roman walled town and immediately east of Ermine St, recorded a number of truncated Roman features. In the eastern part of the site features comprised four pits containing domestic rubbish including pottery of second to fourth century date, a rectangular cess pit containing second to third century pottery, and traces of walling probably of post-medieval date. (A55.1996).
Greetham, Rutland (SK 9247 1470)  
Elaine L. Jones

A watching brief undertaken by ULAS during the construction of two dwellings for Mr and Mrs Hinch on Shepherds Lane, retrieved two sherds of hand made pottery of Iron Age, Roman or Saxon date and two sherds of early medieval date. No archaeological features were detected. (A46.1996).

Greetham, Rutland (SK 9420 1430)  
Elaine L. Jones

A watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of J. and D. Creasey during construction work at Wood Lane, located evidence for a linear limestone feature abutting a pebble surface. The date and function of the features are uncertain, but may represent the eroded continuation of the Roman Sewstern Lane, known to join Ermine Street nearby (Margary 1973, 223). Finds from the topsoil included a single sherd of Roman pottery and late Neolithic or early Bronze Age flint. (A114.1996).

Bibliography

Margary, I.D. 1973  Roman Roads in Britain 3rd Edn.

Greetham, Rutland (SK 9264 1451)  
Patrick Clay

As part of a desk-based assessment prior to residential development on Ponds Lane, remains of a stone wall were surveyed by ULAS on behalf of Mr G. Walker and Thomas Wilson Associates. The 22m length of Lincolnshire limestone wall forms the western boundary of the site and stands to a height of 1.4m. It is believed to be part of a barn of late medieval or post-medieval date, corresponding to the ‘Tithe Barn Row’, known to have occupied the site until at least 1904. It was recommended that the wall be incorporated into the development.

Hemington Fields, Castle Donington (SK 463 303)  
Patrick Clay

The watching brief maintained under a Section 106 Agreement between Leicestershire County Council and Ennemix construction Materials Ltd (TLAHS, 69, p.129 and TLAHS, 70, p.167) was continued through 1996 by ULAS. During topsoil stripping from February to April, an oval-shaped, silt filled feature was recorded from which a fragment of a sandstone pillar moulding, possibly of Roman date, and a square-headed wooden object were retrieved. The wooden object, from its form, could be a peg from a watermill gear wheel. No archaeological structures were recorded in the period up to September, although a palaeochannel was sampled for insects and pollen, and an oak timber of possible Roman-Saxon date was retrieved from spoil, and sent for dendrochronological dating. From September to December, extraction continued to the south of the Phase 3 quarry extension and revealed an 8m long ditch running north-east.
Hoby with Rotherby: Ragdale, Main Street (SK 661 198)  
Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers undertook a watching brief at 9, Main Street on the levelling down of land for a driveway within the historic core of the village. No archaeological finds were made, despite the presence of medieval earthworks adjacent to the site (SMR Ref.61NE.A).

Husbands Bosworth, Butt Lane (SP 645 843)  
Patrick Clay

A 19th century brick lined well was recorded by ULAS during foundation digging for a residential development adjacent to 8, Butt Lane.

Kilby, off Main Street (c. SP 617 955)  
Richard Pollard

Inspections were made of a trench dug by Blaby District Council in the course of a combined sewerage and flood alleviation scheme. The trench ran just south-west of a complex of earthworks of medieval or post-medieval date (SMR Ref.69NW.A; Hartley 1989, 57 and Fig.61). No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds made.

Bibliography


Launde (SK 77 04)  
Matt Beamish

Prehistoric flintwork and Romano-British pottery was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (LM A60.1996, A61.1996).

Launde (SK 78 04)  
Matt Beamish

Prehistoric flintwork, Iron Age pottery and post-medieval brickwaste was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (A52.1996, A62.1996, A631996, A64.1996).

Launde (SK 79 03)  
Matt Beamish

Post-medieval pottery was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (A65.1996).

Leicester, Highcross St (SK 583 045)  
Tim Higgins

Alterations and new building work at 21/23 Highcross St were observed by ULAS on behalf of Mr Noel Weafer. The excavation of foundation and service trenches revealed possible evidence for a Roman building, a property boundary wall of medieval or later
date, and the surviving south wall of the Borough Gaol, constructed in 1792 immediately to the north of the early 18th century property and demolished in 1880. The survival of Roman remains at depths in excess of 2.8m indicated potential for preservation elsewhere in the vicinity. (A134. 1996).

**Leicester, Highfields (SK 617 043 - SK 601 042)** Patrick Clay

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during mains renewal by Severn Trent Water between Coleman Road and Melbourne Road, Highfields. No archaeological deposits were revealed and no materials retrieved.

**Leicester, The Newarke, Trinity Hospital (SK 5826 0408)** Sally Warren

A watching brief was undertaken by Sally Warren of ULAS on behalf of De Montfort University during the excavation of service trenches and car parking areas at Trinity Hospital in January and February 1996. Archaeological deposits were recorded at depths between 0.4m and 0.7m, including walls associated with the original fourteenth century hospital. A 5.6m continuation of the previously recognised western boundary wall of the hospital was exposed to the north of the present building, as well as fragments of the north and south aisle wall, inside and to the front.

**Leicester, York Rd/Oxford St (SK 585 039)** Matthew Beamish

A series of engineers' test pits were dug to the rear of plots fronting onto Oxford Street to the south of its junction with York Rd. The test pits were monitored to provide preliminary indications of the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, since the site lies within an area known to be an extramural suburb in the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. The Mercia mudstone was found to lie between 0.6m and 0.86m beneath the yard surface and a number of probable archaeological features were found to be cutting it.

**Leicester, West Hamilton (c. SK 63 07)** Richard Pollard

The construction of new housing to the north-east of Leicester, known as the Hamilton estate, has led to extensive archaeological fieldwork. Excavations on a Roman farm at Humberstone Farm were undertaken by John Lucas of LAU in the mid 1980s, following up a fieldwalking programme (*TLAHS*, 60, pp.78-80 and *TLAHS*, 62, pp.72-73). Finds of Iron Age date were made in the vicinity of Quakesick Spinney in 1992 (*TLAHS*, 67, p.110; SMR ref.60NW.DA), and LMAST prepared an assessment of the Hamilton North area in 1994, supported by fieldwork (Liddle 1994; *TLAHS*, 68, p.190; SMR refs.60NW.AP, DF, DH). This in turn led to evaluative excavations in 1994 (*TLAHS* 69, p.125).

J.S. Bloor Limited began work on their 4ha sector of the West Hamilton development in the autumn of 1995. A watching brief was maintained during late 1995 and throughout 1996 by Maggie Garven of the Scraptoft Fieldwork Group, supported by the author, for LMAST. Bad weather and the effect of heavy plant on the land surfaces restricted the opportunities for potentially productive fieldwork during the initial phases of roadwork and foundation trench excavation, and only post-
medieval pottery was recovered in spite of the proximity of the Iron Age findspot at Quakesick Spinney, and the reported presence of Anglo-Saxon pottery towards the north-west corner of the field (SMR ref.60NW.CW). The watching brief is to be continued in 1997. The archive and finds are with LM.

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Liddle, P. 1994 An Archaeological Assessment of the Hamilton Northern Housing Area, Leicester unpublished (LMAST Report 94/3)

Leicester, Westcotes, Hinckley Road/Norfolk Street (SK 5753 0412) Richard Pollard

A watching brief was undertaken by the author for LMAST on the construction of a new police station. The site lies to the south of the Norfolk Street Roman villa (TLAHS, 56, pp.103-4); prior to demolition in the late 1970s it had been occupied by houses and commercial properties, with Buckingham Street having traversed its eastern half. Cellars lay along the Hinckley Road frontage, cutting through the natural Mercia mudstone. No significant archaeological deposits were recorded and only finds of c.19th century date identified. (SMR ref.50SE.GC).

Leighfield (SK 81 02) Matt Beamish
Prehistoric flintwork and post-medieval pottery was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (A71.1996).

Leighfield (SK 81 03) Matt Beamish
Prehistoric flintwork was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (A70.1996).

Leighfield (SK 82 02) Matt Beamish
A hearth, which became inaccessible, was observed during trial trenching on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline. Prehistoric flintwork was later found during the watching brief (A42.1996, A72.1996, A73.1996, A74.1996).

Loddington (SK 79 03) Matt Beamish
Prehistoric flintwork and Midland Purple pottery was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (A67.1996, A66.1996).

Loddington (SK 80 03) Matt Beamish
Prehistoric flintwork was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline. (A68.1996 and A69.1996). The upper stone of a beehive rotary quern was noted at Park Wood Farm.
Long Whatton: Diseworth, Clements Gate (SK 454 245) Richard Pollard

A watching brief was carried out by Anne Tarver of the Loughborough Archaeological Society on construction work at 13 Clements Gate, a Listed Building. The foundation trenches failed to reveal any significant archaeological deposits; they cut into the natural Mercia mudstone. Pottery of c.19th century date was recovered. (SMR Ref.42SE.AR).

Loughborough, Church Gate (SK 5383 1987) Richard Pollard

Salvage recording of a wall below ground level was undertaken by Ernie Miller of the Loughborough Archaeological Society for LMAST. The wall, of mortared ‘Forest stone’, lies under the boundary between 40 and 41 Church Gate, adjacent to the ‘Great House’ (37-38 Church Gate, Loughborough; SMR ref.51NW.AP). The wall may be part of a cellar: the Great House itself incorporates 16th century timber framing. (SMR Ref 51NW.AP).

Manton, Priory Road (SK 881 047) Richard Pollard

The excavation of foundation trenches for a new dwelling between nos.24 and 26 Priory Road, Manton, within the historic core of the village, was watched by Elaine Jones of the Rutland Local History and Record Society and the author for LMAST. No significant archaeological deposits were recorded, but a single sherd of early medieval pottery, along with post-medieval material, was recovered. (A21.1996).

Medbourne, Main Street (SP 800 933) Richard Pollard

Construction of a house at 52, Main Street was inspected by Chris Royall, Parish Archaeological Warden, for LMAST. No significant archaeological deposits were recorded and no finds made.

Medbourne, Nevill Arms (SP 800 930) Sally Warren

Evidence for a possible Roman building was found during foundation and drainage excavations at buildings adjacent to the Nevill Arms. A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of E.F.Hall and Partners, and revealed stone footings associated with Roman building debris including roof tile and tesserae. The debris may simply derive from the adjacent villa site (79 SE. A), and may not relate to the footings. As the development progresses it is hoped that an opportunity may arise to confirm their dating and function. (A116. 1996).

Melton Mowbray, Burton Road (SK 7605 1795) Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

A watching brief was undertaken by Melton Fieldworkers, assisted by Richard Pollard for LMAST, on the construction of a Sports Hall at King Edward VII Upper School,
immediately north-west of the Sarson High School. This followed the finding of a Roman brooch by a metal detectorist. Roman and early medieval pottery, painted wall plaster, worked flints and undated limestone foundations, were recorded. The finds, excepting the brooch, are with the authors pending completion of their report. The site is adjacent to an undated cropmark, possibly destroyed by landscaping for a hockey pitch (SMR ref.71NE.Y).

**Melton Mowbray, Burton Street: St. Mary’s Church (SK 752 190)**

Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

A watching brief was maintained by Melton Fieldworkers on the relaying of a path across the churchyard. The area affected, on the north side of the church had been lowered and a metre of burials removed about 300 years ago (placed in a large monument crafted by one of the Staveley family of stonemasons). The works revealed at least eighteen complete skeletons and medieval potsherds directly below a cobbled path (dated to c.1700), immediately below the recent tarmac path. Early medieval potsherds integral with the burials were recovered. A report is in preparation by the authors. (A25.1997).

**Melton Mowbray, Burton Street: Anne of Cleves House (SK 753 189)**

Neil Finn and Elaine Jones

An archaeological watching brief was maintained by ULAS on internal alterations and the construction of a new cellar store (see above p.105) and car parking area to the rear of Anne of Cleves House, a fourteenth century stone building (Pevsner 1984, pp.319-20) to the south of St. Mary’s Church, Melton Mowbray. The internal alterations included the removal of two walls and a timber floor, excavation works for a new brick pier and solid floor footings and chasings into the plaster for electrical installations. One of the walls removed had been evaluated in 1995, and was a 19th century brick insertion (Gossip and Mackie 1995). After removal of plaster, the other wall proved to be of stone, and was drawn in elevation prior to demolition. It was constructed of coursed ironstone blocks bonded with mortar, and was the eastern (front) wall of a stone built lean-to addition to the south end of the medieval building, set back from the street frontage. Removal of chasings in the walls for new wiring produced no evidence for plaster earlier than the 18th or 19th century. Removal of the timber floor in the main body of the building revealed a loose rubble deposit over most of the area which contained 19th century finds along with residual glazed late medieval ridge tile. This was also watched by Melton Fieldworkers (see entry below). A trench excavated against the inside of the eastern (front) wall of the building showed that the stone wall superstructure continued down to a depth of 0.85m, where an offset marked the change to foundation material. This suggests that the original floor was probably 0.85m lower than present. The brick pier foundation trench revealed similar rubbly deposits containing residual medieval material to those seen beneath the timber floor, and these post dated the construction of the east wall. The external works revealed only one possible medieval feature, an undated post hole and a cobbled surface. (A.147.1995).
Melton Mowbray, Burton Street: Anne of Cleves House (SK 753 189)  
Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

The Melton Fieldworkers maintained a watching-brief during the removal of 19th Century deposits beneath timber floors. Residual medieval pottery and tile was recovered including an almost complete ridge-tile vent in zoomorphic form. The vent pre-dates the present building and is likely to have provided ventilation to an open halled building of the 12th century. A report is in preparation for the Heritage Buildings Department, Leicestershire County Council, without whom the identification of the vent would not have been possible.

A programme of assessment, evaluation and watching brief on work at the Anne of Cleves House (SMR ref. 71NE.W) has also been pursued by ULAS (see separate report above).

Melton Mowbray, Burton Street: Play Close (SK 752 188)  
Richard Pollard

A watching brief was undertaken by Melton Fieldworkers, following the recovery of an early Anglo-Saxon brooch by a metal detectorist, on the laying of gas pipes. An adjacent area to the east had been trial trenched in 1989 (TLAHS, 64, pp.83-7); to the west, a pipeline 85m in length with its western end commencing at the River Eye was watched in 1991 without producing any significant archaeological finds (TLAHS, 66, p.187: note that the location published is incorrect, and should read SK 750 189). No archaeological finds other than the brooch and a copper alloy object are reported by the Melton Fieldworkers. Play Close is listed as SMR ref. 71NE.BL, this record embracing the 1989, 1991 and 1996 interventions.

Moira, Sarah’s Wood (SK 312 158)  
Sally Warren

Further watching brief work was undertaken by ULAS as part of the SOS Woodland Project funded by Leicestershire County Council. Previous work (TLAHS, 70, p.157), had provided evidence for an Iron Age settlement, and groundwork preparation for the laying of a pathway in Sarah’s Wood, indicated further undated features which may relate to it. (A137.1996).

Oakham, Rutland (SK 8602 0869)  
Elaine L. Jones

A pit containing a sherd of medieval pottery and a ditch containing a clay pipe bowl and post-medieval pottery were observed by ULAS during the construction work at Matkins Printers Ltd, at 43 South St. (A109.1996).
Peckleton, The Common (SK 4783 0133) Richard Pollard

The construction of a rear extension to a house (Wayside Cottage) on the line of the Roman road from Leicester to Mancetter, Margary’s Route 57b, (Margary 1957) occasioned a watching brief. No significant archaeological deposits were recorded, but a collection of late 19th – early 20th century pottery sherds was recovered of social history and educational value. The archive and finds are with LM (A37.1996).

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Pickworth, The Paddock (SK 992 137) Richard Pollard

A watching brief was undertaken during excavation for a basement to a new house on the site of medieval earthworks (Leics. SMR ref.91 SE.A). No significant archaeological deposits were recorded, though a 19th century limestone quarry was noted in section. Sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were collected from the site. (A101.1996).

Preston (SK 86 02) Matt Beamish

A Prehistoric settlement including enclosures, roundhouses and pits was observed on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (Beamish, Wing to Whatborough, above p99). The landowner would not permit the excavation or recording of the site. Prehistoric flintwork and post-medieval pottery was found during the watching brief. (A78.1996, A79.1996).

Preston (SK 87 02) Matt Beamish

Iron Age features were excavated on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (Beamish, Wing to Whatborough, above p99) Prehistoric flintwork, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery was also found during the watching brief. (A80.1996, A81.1996, A82.1996 A83.1996).

Preston (SK 88 02) Matt Beamish

Prehistoric flintwork, medieval pottery, and post-medieval pottery was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (LM A84.1996, A85.1996).

Ridlington (SK 83 02) Matt Beamish

A Bronze Age pit, Bronze or Iron Age roundhouses, Roman enclosures and roundhouses along with iron smelting features were excavated on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (Beamish, Wing to Whatborough, above p99) Prehistoric flintwork was found during the watching brief (A75.1996 A76.1996).
Ridlington (SK 85 02) Matt Beamish

Iron Age and Roman features were excavated on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (Beamish, Wing to Whatborough, above p99).

Rothley, Mountsorrel Lane (SK 583 128) Richard Pollard and Norman Cutler

An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken during redevelopment of the Star Works site off Mountsorrel Lane, Rothley by Norman Cutler for LMAST. No significant archaeological deposits were observed; a large quantity of 19th-early 20th century pottery and glass was recovered, but nothing of earlier date. The site lies on the northern edge of the historic village. (SMR ref.51SE.DJ).

Saxelbye nr. Melton Mowbray (SK 701 209) Sally Warren

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS, on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd, during mains renewal along Main Street. Evidence for an earlier cobbled road surface of uncertain date was revealed.

Somerby (SK 783 110) Elaine L. Jones

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during mains renewal by Severn Trent Water between Pickwell and Somerby. To the north of Somerby a 5m wide ditch was observed but no dating evidence was obtained.

Stathern, St. Guthlac (SK 772 309) Richard Pollard

A watching brief on underpinning work on the medieval parish church was undertaken by the author for LMAST and the Leicester Diocesan Advisory Committee. Two trenches were recorded against the north and east sides of the north chapel, a Perpendicular addition to the north aisle (Pevsner 1984, pp.389-90) and thus datable to c.1335/50 - 1530 (ibid., p.543). The north trench was opened 1.52m west of the north-east angle buttress. This trench revealed a foundation at least 1.4m in length, projecting some 0.94m from the battered plinth of the chapel. This foundation is bonded to the fabric of the chapel's foundations; it is of similar dimensions to a buttress supporting the north aisle to the west, and lies below the eastern-most of the north-facing windows of the north aisle and chapel. There is no indication in the standing wall of the chapel that a structure bonded to it has been removed.

It may thus be that the exposed foundation was either never built upon, or that its superstructure was buttressed to the chapel. One interpretation is that this was a buttress
that, because of the position of the window, was never constructed. Another, favoured by David Parsons, is that the foundation represents a wall running north from the church: two ironstone fragments project from the section of the trench 1.48m north of the foundation. The archive comprises a site plan and photographs. (SMR ref.73SE.A).

Bibliography


Staunton Harold, Melbourne Lodge, (SK 384 199) Sally Warren

In March 1996, a watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn-Trent Water Ltd during water main replacement along the eastern edge of the B587 Melbourne to Lount road. Aerial photographs had previously revealed cropmarks to the east of the road, but no archaeological material or deposits were recognised along a 900m length.

Sweptstone, St. Peter (SK 367 105) Richard Pollard

An inspection was made by the author for LMAST and the Leicester Diocesan Advisory Committee of a drainage trench and soakaway dug to the east of the chancel of the medieval parish church. A faculty of 1794 stated that the medieval chancel was to be shortened from 40ft 10in. to 26ft 10in. The present length of the chancel is 34ft 2in (10.412m); the chancel was rebuilt in 1869 (Pevsner 1984, p.400), the drawings pertaining to which are in the Leicestershire Records Office (DE 2309/27/1-3). The present chancel thus falls 6ft 8in. (2.3m) short of the pre-1794 length. The drainage trench was dug diagonally across the east end of the church, alongside an existing ceramic pipe, from the blue brick channel outside the north wall of the chancel, terminating in a soakaway 4.5m from the chancel and with an observed depth of 1.67m through redeposited glacial gravel mixed with fragmentary bone.

The drainage trench, 0.33m wide and 0.46m deep, cut through deposits of mortar and stones over cobbles some 2.1 - 3.3m east of the chancel. These deposits are roughly in line with the projected north wall of the pre-1794 chancel, extending a metre or so beyond where it should terminate. It is possible, therefore, that the footings of the medieval chancel survive some 0.32m below the present ground surface, and that 0.16m of demolition deposits over the north-east angle were cut by the trench, along with some 0.14m of the cobble foundation itself. The discrepancy in the length of the chancel with the dimensions cited in the 1794 faculty suggests that either less was demolished than was anticipated, or that Blomfield added 7ft 4in. (2.235m) to the reduced structure in the 1869 rebuilding.

The contractors found and handed over to the author a rim in Potters Marston ware and a base in Chilvers Coton ware (Leics. Museums fabric CC1); these wares are dated respectively to c.1100-1300 and 1200-1400 (TLAHS, 63, pp.18-47 (28-41)).

The author would like to thank David Parsons for his information on the documents. (SMR ref.31SE.BC).
Bibliography


Whatborough (SK 76 05)  Matt Beamish

Prehistoric flintwork, Romano-British pottery, medieval and post-medieval pottery was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (A58.1996).

Whatborough (SK 77 05)  Matt Beamish

Prehistoric flintwork was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (A59.1996).

Whitwell, Whitwell Creek Sailing/Rescue Centre (SK 9259 0815)  Richard Pollard

A watching brief was undertaken by the author for LMAST on the excavation of foundation trenches for a new toilet block adjoining the south wall of the Rescue Centre. The site lies some 25m east of the Iron Age and Roman site excavated in 1976-77 (Todd 1981; SMR ref.90NW.BU). A cut feature containing iron slag was revealed. Two iron smelting furnaces of Roman date were excavated some 80m to the south-west (Todd 1981, pp.15-19), associated with slag. The site of the Rescue Centre appears to overly a Roman field system (*ibid*, Areas 4 and 5 are closest). A sample of the slag has been submitted for analysis. (A22.1996).

Bibliography

Todd, M., 1981  *The Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Whitwell, Leicestershire.* Leicester, Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service

Wigston Magna (SK 690 979)  Patrick Clay

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in March 1996 on behalf of Severn-Trent Water Plc. during mains renewal along the eastern edge of Welford Road. Prehistoric, Roman, and Saxon finds had previously come from the area, but no further evidence was revealed during this work.

Wing (SK 88 02)  Matt Beamish

Prehistoric flintwork and post-medieval pottery was found during the watching brief on the Wing to Whatborough Pipeline (A86.1996).

Wing (SK 89 02)  Matt Beamish

Leicester, Abbey Ward, Highcross Street (SK 5839 0455) Richard Pollard

A photographic record of the timber roof structure of 21-23 Highcross Street was made by the author during refurbishment of the building. A watching brief on groundworks by ULAS is reported elsewhere in this volume.

The building comprises two bays built parallel to the street and divided centrally by a through passage to the rear yard. It is generally accepted to date from the early eighteenth century, and is a Grade II Listed Building. The date derives from the legend '1712' picked out in blue bricks above the front doorway, revealed during the restoration and erroneously shown in a John Flower lithograph of 1825 as '1717' (see Elliott 1983, Pl.65, caption for the date of this drawing). The SMR reference for the building and finds made on the site is 50SE.WI.

The roof is, in essence, a through-purlin collar and tie beam truss system. The wall plate survives along the front of the building, and part of the original wall post survives at the street (west) end of the central truss. The rear wall post of the south truss also survives on the first floor, forming part of a door frame giving access from the back stairs to the south (no.21) bay. The central truss is positioned over a ground floor through passage; this would prevent the wall posts resting on the ground or a sill beam. It may be suggested that the brick front wall replaced the box timber frame, resulting in the truncation of the wall posts of the central truss. This would imply that the date of 1712 marks reconstruction, and that the building itself dates back to the 17th century, if not earlier.

There is much evidence of modification, and employment of re-used timber. The central and south trusses bear incised carpenters' marks; the former is marked II on the south side of the tie beam and rear principal rafter, the latter III on the front principal rafter. David Smith has suggested (pers. comm.) that substantial parts of the trusses were replaced in the late 18th century, a time when traditional methods of construction were falling out of favour. This is particularly true of the end trusses, both of which deploy tie beams which bear plain chamfer stops and are straight, implying the re-use of upper floor joists. The central (II) truss has, at first glance, a more traditional appearance, with cambered tie beam and collar, and purlins trapped between collar and rafters. However, the collar rests upon the principal rafters, both being overlapped by common rafters which provide the trap for the through-purlins. The studs between collar and tie beam are secondary, ill-fitting the more square sockets cut in the tie beam. The common rafters feature bridle joints at the apex, which generally indicates a roof of some sophistication, substantiating the evidence of the central truss (Smith, pers. comm.).

The roof frame has been retained in the refurbished building, the attic rooms being intended for bed-sitting rooms. The brickwork of the street frontage has been dismantled, cleaned, and rebuilt in identical fashion, exposing the 1712 date. The bricks are generally 2” - 2¼” thick, rather narrow for the late 17th and 18th centuries. This is true also of the inner face of the north gable, where the bricks are generally 2” x 10”. It is possible that this is a late 19th century construction building on the remains of the stone wall of the Borough Gaol and re-using old brick. The gaol was built in 1792-3 and demolished in 1880, its south wall remaining as the party wall with 21-23 Highcross Street (then Morgan's Locksmiths) and as an element of the south wall of the warehouse that replaced it.
This wall retains the quoins at the rear which formed the south-east angle of the Borough Gaol.

The author would like to express his thanks to David Smith for talking him through the timber structure and offering advice on its interpretation. The archive is with Leicester Museum, to be filed with that of the ULAS watching brief (A134.1996).

**Bibliography**

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**Stonton Wyville, Mill Farm (SP 7354 9470)**

Richard Pollard

An archaeological survey of Mill Farm was undertaken in 1995-6 by LMAST, funded by English Heritage under their Survey Grant for Presentation Scheme. The principal results of fieldwalking have been published summarily (*TLAHS*, 70, p.172). A measured survey of the farmhouse itself was undertaken by Fred Hartley, Paul Przewlocki and the author, and written up by the author (in Liddle et al 1996). The Victoria County History (Lee and McKinley (eds) 1964, 310-1) provides the generally accepted history of the structure, proposing a 17th century origin for the water mill that occupied the east end and remained in use into the mid 19th century. The mill building was extended, in brick, in the 17th and subsequent centuries: five phases of construction were deduced, the first being the ironstone water mill itself, and the last being a late 19th/early 20th century extension of the domestic range probably post-dating the dismantling of the mill.

One result of the survey is a challenge to the belief that the wheel was undershot (Ashton 1976, 90; Lee and McKinley (eds) 1964, 311). Two putlog holes in the west (inner) wall of the wheel pit are in line with the sill of the launder, which is 1.9m above the level of the wheel axle which can be established from circumferential scarring of the west wall by the wheel. The location of the putlogs suggests that the launder may have been carried into the wheel pit. This would indicate that either a back-shot or high breast-shot system was in use, at least in the final phase, rather than an under-shot one. The archive is with LM; the Mill Farm house is listed as SMR ref.79SW.R.

**Bibliography**


FIELDWALKING IN LEICESTERSHIRE 1996

Barkby Thorpe (SK 63 08)
Fieldwalking by students of the School of Archaeological Studies, Leicester University has recorded a large Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery scatter.

Burton Lazars (SK 76 17)
During the drought in July, parch marks of two overlapping buildings were recorded in an area of the hospital site that is devoid of earthworks.

Coalville (SK 42 11)
Paul Saunders has found a small scatter of Roman pottery in a rough ploughed field. Given the conditions this almost certainly represents an occupation site.

Earl Shilton (SP 48 97)
The Hinckley Fieldwork Group and Robert Ward have found a Roman site yielding coins, metalwork and pottery.

Eaton (SK 79 30)
The Melton Fieldworkers and a local farmer have recovered a large quantity of prehistoric flint material from three adjacent fields. The flint includes implements from the Palaeolithic through to the Bronze Age.

Enderby (SK 52 00)
Members of the Melton and Belvoir Search society have found a scatter of Roman coins, brooches and pottery during the 1996 LOROS metal detector rally organised by the Hinckley Search Society.

Great Dalby (SK 74 14)
Steve Houghton of the Melton and Belvoir Search Society has found a Roman brooch, two Roman coins and some greyware in the centre of Great Dalby. This seems likely to indicate occupation.

Great Dalby (SK 74 15)
Members of the Melton and Belvoir Search Society have found a Roman site yielding pottery, metalwork and coins.

Huncote (SK 51 98)
A local detectorist has found the enamelled head of a linch-pin from a late Iron Age chariot.

Kirby Bellars (SK 71 17)
Members of the Melton and Belvoir Search Society have found an extensive Roman occupation site covering three ploughed fields. Building material, pottery, large numbers of coins and metalwork have been recorded. Indications of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at the site have also been found.
Oakham (SK 83 08)
A member of the Melton and Belvoir Search Society has found a small Roman site south of the Oakham Road.

Queniborough (SK 64 12)
Dr Phil Harding of the Melton and Belvoir Search Society has found a small Roman site yielding coins, pottery and metalwork.

Stockerston (SP 84 95)
Fieldwalking by the Great Easton Fieldwork Group, LMAST and Leicester University has produced a scatter of Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery indicating occupation.

Stanton Wyville (SP 73 94)
Fieldwalking by LMAST has produced a late Iron Age occupation site.
A117.1996

Stanton Wyville (SP 74 96)
Fieldwalking by LMAST has produced a small Late Iron Age occupation site within a Prehistoric flint scatter.
A120.1996

Stanton Wyville (SP 73 94)
Fieldwalking by LMAST has produced a Late Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon site east of the village. The Roman material included three fragments of kiln bar indicating a pottery kiln, the first from South East Leicestershire.
A135.1996

Stanton Wyville (SP 74 93)
Fieldwalking by LMAST has produced a very extensive Anglo-Saxon occupation site with a small late Iron Age/early Roman occupation site within it.
A24.1997

Thorpe Satchville (SK 73 11)
Steve Houghton has found a small scatter of Roman metalwork south of the village. One of these is a cavalry strap buckle.

Thorpe Satchville (SK 73 12)
A late Saxon or Viking, pattern welded spearhead has been recorded from north of the village.

Thurlaston (SP 48 99)
Fieldwalking by ULAS has produced Iron Age and Roman pottery on a previously undated cropmark site.

Thurlaston (SP 49 99)
Fieldwalking by ULAS has produced a large scatter of Roman pottery indicating an occupation site.

1996 was the first and - due to the decision to create a separate City Museum Service - the only year for the expanded Survey Team to operate. The two planning archaeologists, Anne Graf and Richard Clark, have provided a planning service to the County and District Councils. To support this work a new computerised database has been created. Dr. Richard Pollard has been most successful in undertaking the role of Field Archaeologist. He has spearheaded the creation of the Leicestershire Archaeological Network, an initiative to link Parish Councils and Meetings into local archaeology by the appointment of Parish Archaeological wardens. After 9 months, 71 parishes had appointed wardens. Richard has undertaken watching briefs himself, but is increasingly operating in support of parish wardens.

Richard Knox has, with the aid of Jon White, substantially reduced the backlog of information waiting to be added to the Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record. This has now transferred from the County Hall Mainframe computer to an interim system, pending the creation of a new system using Multi-Mimsy, which runs the Museums’ documentation system.

The Team have only been engaged in small scale fieldwork projects. Further work has been undertaken at Stanton Wyville (which will be fully fieldwalked in due course), a small landscape project completed at Stapleford and some fieldwalking at Husbands Bosworth.

The Community Archaeology Initiative continues to forge ahead. Some 20 groups now exist under the umbrella of the Leicestershire Archaeological Fieldwork Group, whose membership has grown to 300, another increase of 40 in the year. The lecture and training programme was highly successful with over 100 attending Prof. Martin Carver’s lecture on Sutton Hoo. The summer coach trips to medieval castles and medieval villages were exceptionally popular.

Two events for the public were run – Revolt AD60, focusing on the Boudiccan Rebellion and ‘Bringing The Past To Life’. Each attracted well over 2,000 visitors to Jewry Wall Museum.

Bob Rutland and John Lucas, Keeper and Assistant Keeper of Archaeology have mastered the new documentation system and have begun upgrading the displays at Jewry Wall Museum.

The prospects for 1997, with the splitting of the archaeological service along with the Museums Service, are uncertain. The challenge will be to maintain, and even improve, services to the public and continue to protect and further the understanding of Leicestershire’s archaeology.

Peter Liddle
Archaeological Survey Officer